Survey #: __P.G. #79-44__   Building Date: __1899_____

Building Name: __St. Mary of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church__

Location: __14908 Main Street, Upper Marlboro, Maryland__

Private/Religious/Occupied/Excellent/Accessible

Description:

St. Mary's Church is a gable-roofed brick church which fronts directly on Main Street in Upper Marlboro. It is a large building (ca. 120' long and 58' wide), with two-story nave, and one-story side aisles. Entrance is through double doors centered in the east gable end the surround of the doors is composed on each side of three engaged columns of brownstone, with acanthus leaf capitals. Above the door is a wooden rosette-filled pediment, and above that, a large pointed-arch stained glass window with dentilled sill. South of the double doors and set into the southeast corner of the building is a three-story (75' high) bell tower, crenelated and decorated with four turrets. There is a second set of double doors in the east face of the tower, also surmounted by a rosette-filled pediment. There is a parepetted balcony on each of the south and east faces of the tower at second level; and the top of the tower is adorned with brownstone turrets, painted white. The sides of the church are 14 bays long; the pointed-arch windows are filled with stained-glass memorials, and their sills are of brownstone. Brick buttresses between each set of two bays have molded brownstone caps at the weatherings.

Significance:

St. Mary's Church exemplifies Gothic Revival Church architecture in the grand style; when it was dedicated in 1899, newspaper accounts claimed that it compared favorably with the great churches of great cities. St. Mary's had its beginnings in Boone's Chapel, a small private Catholic chapel which was built before 1787 in the area now known as Cheltenham; this small log chapel had deteriorated by the 1840's, when a Catholic church was constructed on the main street in Upper Marlboro. The mid-nineteenth century building served the Catholic population of Upper Marlboro for more than 50 years. In 1898, the old church was demolished, and the new church erected on its site. The new brick building was designed by Hugh A. Campbell, Washington architect, and the Wyvill Brothers of Upper Marlboro were contracted as builders. The new church was dedicated 28 May 1899 by Cardinal Gibbons. St. Mary's Church is an important landmark in the town of Upper Marlboro, not only as part of the evolution of a center of Catholic worship in Prince George's County, but as an example of grand scale church architecture by local builders.

Acreage: 1.08 acre

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

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1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic St. Mary of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church

and/or common St. Mary's Catholic Church

2. Location

street & number 14908 Main Street ___ not for publication

city, town Upper Marlboro ___ vicinity of **congressional district** 5

state Md. **county** P.G.

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	_X_ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
_X_ building(s)	_X_ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	_X_ religious
___ object	___ in process	_X_ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	_x_ not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Rev. Patrick O'Boyle, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Washington

street & number c/o St. Marys Church **telephone no.:** 627-3255

city, town Upper Marlboro **state and zip code** Md. 20772

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. not found **liber**

street & number **folio**

city, town **state**

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title P.G. County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 ___ federal ___ state _X_ county ___ local

depository for survey records History Division, MNCPPC

city, town Riverdale, **state** Md. 20737

7. Description

Condition

X__ excellent   ___ deteriorated

___ good   ___ ruins

___ fair   ___ unexposed

Check one

___ unaltered

_X_ altered

Check one

_X_ original site

___ moved   **date** of move   _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

St. Mary's Church is a gable-roofed brick church which fronts directly on Main Street in Upper Marlboro. It is a large building, with two-story nave, and one-story side aisles; it is ca. 120' long, 58' wide, and 60' high at the ridge. Its principal facade is its east gable end, and entry is through double doors centered in this east gable end, and flanked by pointed-arch stained glass windows. South of the double doors and set into the southeast corner of the building is a three-story (75' high) bell tower, crenelated and decorated with four turrets. There is a second set of double doors centered in the east face of the tower.

The main entrance is through five-panel double doors; the surround of the doors is composed on each side of three engaged columns of brownstone, with acanthus leaf capitals. The door is surmounted by a wooden rosette-filled pediment, and above that a large pointed-arch stained glass window with dentilled sill.

The double doors in the east face of the tower are, like the main doors, surmounted by a rosette-filled pediment. There are two louvered pointed-arch windows on each face of the tower at second level. Each set of double louvered windows has a shallow dentilled platform beneath; on the east and south, this platform is expanded into a parapetted balcony. The top of the tower is adorned with brownstone turrets, now painted white.

The sides of the church are 14 bays long (including three doors on the north side, and two on the south); the pointed-arch windows are filled with stained-glass memorials, and their sills are of brownstone. There are six brick buttresses on the side walls of the church, placed between each set of two bays; these buttresses have molded brownstone caps at the weatherings.

At the west gable end of the church is a curved altar lighted by four narrow pointed-arch windows. They are filled by stained glass memorials to Eliza Graham, the principal benefactor of the church.

The interior is painted white, and features wainscoting below the chair rails, and door surrounds with bulls-eye corner blocks. The ornate wooden ceiling beams and braces are fully visible. There are four banks of heavy ornate oak pews which can accommodate 800 persons. An original fresco in the arched ceiling of the altar has been painted over in plain white.

8. Significance

Period
___ prehistoric
___ 1400–1499
___ 1500–1599
___ 1600–1699
___ 1700–1799
_X_ 1800–1899
___ 1900–

Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

___ archeology-prehistoric
___ archeology-historic
___ agriculture
_X_ architecture
___ art
___ commerce
___ communications

___ community planning
___ conservation
___ economics
___ education
___ engineering
___ exploration/settlement
___ industry
___ invention

___ landscape architecture
___ law
___ literature
___ military
___ music
___ philosophy
___ politics/government

_X_ religion
___ science
___ sculpture
___ social/ humanitarian
___ theater
___ transportation
___ other (specify)

Specific dates   1899   **Builder/Architect**   Wyvill Brothers/Hugh Campbell

check: Applicable Criteria: _A_ _B_ _C_ _D_
              and/or

          Applicable Exception: _A_ _B_ _C_ _D_ _E_ _F_ _G_

          Level of Significance: _national_   _state_   _local_

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

St. Mary's Church exemplifies Gothic Revival Church architecture in the grand style. When it was dedicated in 1899, newspaper accounts claimed that it compared favorably with the great churches of great cities.[1] St. Mary's had its beginnings in Boone's Chapel, a small private Catholic chapel which was built before 1787 in the area between Nottingham and the Woodyard, now known as Cheltenham. This small log chapel must have deteriorated by the 1840's, when a Catholic church was constructed on the main street in Upper Marlboro.

This building served the Catholic population of Upper Marlboro for more than 50 years. Then in 1898, under the rectorship of Charles Trinkhaus, the present brick church was built on the same site. Demolition of the old church began in May 1898, and two months later, the new cornerstone was laid. The new church building was designed by Hugh A. Campbell, Washington architect, and the Wyvill Brothers of Upper Marlboro were contracted as builders. The new church was dedicated 28 May 1899 by Cardinal Gibbons.[2]

St. Mary's Church is an important landmark in the town of Upper Marlboro, not only as part of the evolution of a center of Catholic worship in Prince George's County, but as an example of grand scale church architecture by local builders.

Notes:

[1] Laurel Leader - 2 June 1899; Catholic Mirror - 3 June 1899; Prince George's Enquirer, 9 June 1899.

[2] Ibid; church records, St. Mary's Church; Stones and Bones, Prince George's County Genealogical Society, 1984.

9. Major Bibliographical References

cf. Notes, Item #8

Interview with Father McGuigan; Wyvill family members.

St. Mary's Church records.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property ___1.08 acre; TM#101, parcel 75___

Quadrangle name _Bristol quadrangle_, section D   **Quadrangle scale** _____

UTM References   do NOT complete UTM references

A |__|__| |__|__|__|__|__| |__|__|__|__|__|
    Zone   **Easting**   **Northing**

B |__|__| |__|__|__|__|__| |__|__|__|__|__|
    Zone   **Easting**   **Northing**

C |__|__| |__|__|__|__|__| |__|__|__|__|__|

D |__|__| |__|__|__|__|__| |__|__|__|__|__|

E |__|__| |__|__|__|__|__| |__|__|__|__|__|

F |__|__| |__|__|__|__|__| |__|__|__|__|__|

G |__|__| |__|__|__|__|__| |__|__|__|__|__|

H |__|__| |__|__|__|__|__| |__|__|__|__|__|

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title   Susan G. Pearl, Research Historian

organization   Historic Preservation Commission   **date**   May 1985

street & number   c/o County Planning, MNCPPC   **telephone**   952-3521

city or town   Upper Marlboro,   **state**   Md.

R-U
P.18

R-T
MARLBOROUGH TOWNE APTS.
PARCEL 'A'

6201

R-55

C-O
8934
8621
6639

R-55

P.G. CO.
4411/183
11.00 A.
P 258

O-S

SCHOOL HOUSE POND

M N C P. & P C.
4413/241
805) A.

P 139

STATE OF
MARYLAND
5156/336
6.39 A.
P.258

O-S

R-R
4.00 A.
P.385

R18

R-80

0.82 A.
P.12
P.253

725

79-44

ODEN

BOWIE DRIVE

PARKING

FINGLASS
1.03 A.
P.171

VOL. FIRE DEPT.
P.174

CLARA SMITH
4/31/291

P.254   725

R-80
5.87A.   P 53

5.00 A.
P 55

T VAN CLAGETT
2509-174
3.21 A.
P.56

C-O

C-O

P. G. CO.
COMM
3190/520
5.48 A.
P 266

TRINITY CHURCH

C-S-C

JAIL
P.175

BOARD OF
EDUCATION
419/44
4.34 A.
P 60

O-S

11203

I-1

R-R

I-3

I-1

R-A

½ MILE
RACE
TRACK

PG. 79-44

#7 Continued

There is a parking lot behind the church (to the west); located on its northern perimeter are two small classroom buildings. The easternmost is a one-and-one-half-story hip-roofed frame building, four bays long, covered with German siding; it has dormers in the end planes of the roof. The other is a one-story gable-roofed building, nine bays long, with a door in the central bay of the long south facade. On the small corner lot, directly south of the church, is a two-story rectory building.

P.G. #79-44
St. Mary's Catholic Church
Prince George's County, MD.
Susan G. Pearl
March 1985
Southwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.

P.G.#79-44

St. Mary's Catholic Church
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
March 1985
Southeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD